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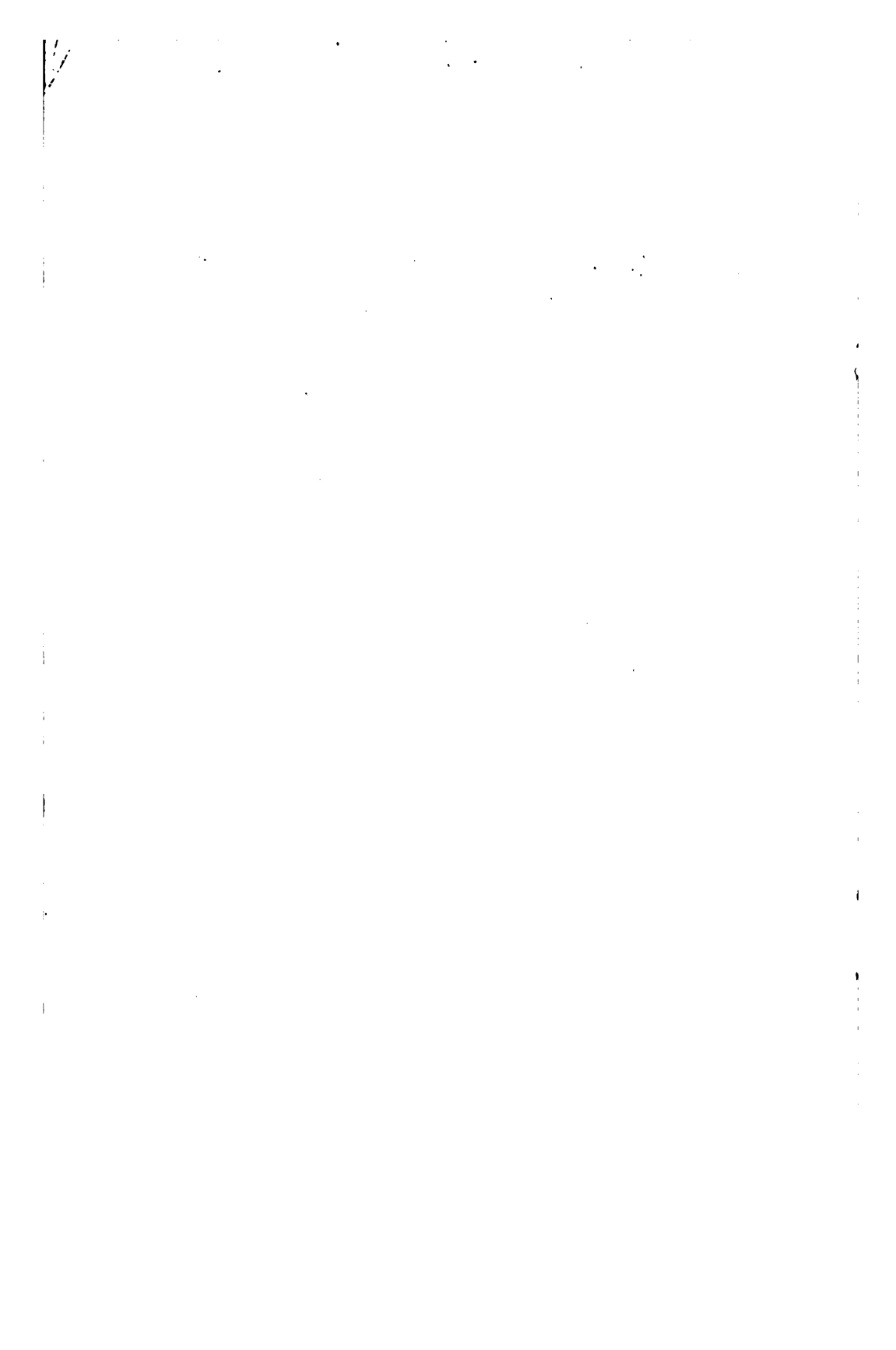
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“Colin.”

The property of CAPTAIN G. A. GRAHAM, of Rednock.

Born 1865.



“Scot.”

The property of CAPTAIN G. A. GRAHAM, of Rednock.

Born 1877.

THE
IRISH WOLFHOUND

BY
CAPTAIN G. A. GRAHAM,
REDNOCK, DURSLEY.

ORIGINALLY COMPILED AUGUST, 1879.

REVISED AND COMPLETED MAY, 1885.

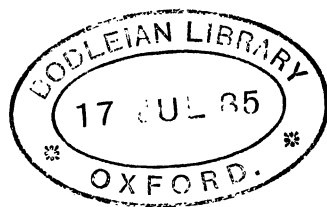
PRINTED FOR THE
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THROUGH THE MUNIFICENCE OF

MR. G. W. S. LENNOX,

One of the Members.

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THE IRISH WOLFHOUND.

IT is with a certain amount of diffidence that this essay is entered upon, as there is a widely-spread impression that the breed to be treated of is extinct. That we are in possession of the breed in its original integrity is not pretended; at the same time it is confidently believed that there are strains now existing tracing back, more or less clearly, to the original breed; and it also appears to be tolerably certain that our modern Deerhound is descended from that noble animal, and gives us a very fair idea of what he was, though undoubtedly considerably his inferior in size and power. Had it not been for these facts, the courage to write this article might have been wanting; but they appear to be so clear to the writer, that he can proceed, with the feeling that most of his readers will perceive that he is amply justified in undertaking a history and description of this very magnificent example of the canine race—that, indeed, may be said to have been its *king*.

There have been several very interesting and clever essays written on this subject. Two of the ablest and most valuable were written by Mr. A. McNeill, of Colonsay, in 1838, and Mr. H. D. Richardson, in 1841. These treat exclusively of the Irish Wolfhound, though in Mr. McNeill's case it is more to show the identity of the breed with the

modern Deerhound that he writes. Richardson, on the other hand, proceeds to show us that, though undeniably of the same stamp, the Irish dog was far superior in size and power, and that from him is descended, in these later days, the modern Deerhound. Both these authors have shown considerable ability and ingenuity in their arguments, and no one can deny that they are worthy of every consideration. Richardson would appear to be in error on some points, but in the main his ideas would certainly appear to be reasonable and correct. That Richardson was highly qualified to offer a sound and most valuable opinion on the subject is proved by the very admirable manner in which he has treated of and described almost every known breed of dog, whether British or foreign. As yet, his book is by far the best published on the dog—none excepted—though it is a modest and unpretending production. That we have in the Deerhound the modern representative of the old Irish Wolf-dog is patent, of less stature, less robust, and of slimmer form; the main characteristics of the breed remain, and in very exceptional instances specimens occur which throw back to and resemble in a marked manner the old stock from which they have sprung. It is not probable that our remote ancestors arrived at any very high standard as to quality or looks. Strength, stature, and fleetness were the points most carefully cultivated—at any rate, as regards those breeds used in the capture of large and fierce game. It is somewhat remarkable that whilst we have accounts of all the noticeable breeds from a remote period, including the Irish Wolfdog, we do not find any allusion to the Deerhound, save in writings of a comparatively recent date, which would in a measure justify us in supposing that the Deerhound is the modern representative of that superb animal.

It is a matter of history that this dog was well known to and highly prized by the Romans, who, we are led to understand, frequently used him in their combats in the arena, for which his great size, strength, and activity eminently

fitted him. It has always been a mooted point whether the Irish Wolfdog was, strictly speaking, a Greyhound, or was of a more robust form, approaching the Mastiff. Let us, then, proceed to investigate the question.

Richardson tells us that "Pliny relates a combat in which the dogs of Epirus have a part. He describes them as much bigger than Mastiffs, and of Greyhound form, detailing an account of their contests with a lion and an elephant." This, he thinks, suffices to establish the identity of the Irish Wolfdog with the far-famed dogs of Epirus! !

Strabo describes a large and powerful Greyhound as having been in use among the Celtic and Pictish nations, and as being held in such high estimation by them as to have been imported into Gaul for the purposes of the chase.

Silius describes a large and powerful Greyhound as having been imported into Ireland by the Belgæ, thus identifying the Irish Wolfdog with the celebrated Belgic dog of antiquity, which we read of in so many places as having been brought to Rome for the combats of the amphitheatre.

Sir James Warr, in his "Antiquities of Ireland," thus writes, regarding the Irish Wolfdog, about 1630 (?) :—" I must here take notice of those hounds which, from their hunting of wolves, are commonly called Wolfdogs—being creatures of great size and strength, and of a fine shape. I cannot but think that these are the dogs which Symmachus mentions in an epistle to his brother Flavonius. 'I thank you,' says he, 'for the present you have made me of some *Canes Scotici*, which were shewn at the Cirensian Games, to the great astonishment of the people, who could not judge it possible to bring them to Rome otherwise than in iron cages.' I am sensible Mr. Burton (Itinery of Anton, 220), treading the footsteps of Justus Lipsius (epist. ad. Belg. Cant. i. p. 44), makes no scruple to say that dogs intended by Symmachus were British Mastives. But with submission to great names, how could the British Mastive get the appellation of Scotious in the age Symmachus lived? For

he was consul of Rome in the later end of the fourth century, at which time—and for some time before, and for many centuries after—Ireland was well known by the name of Scotia, as I have shewn before (chap. i). Besides, the English Mastive was no way comparable to the Irish Wolfdog in size or elegant shape, nor would it make an *astonishing* figure in the spectacles exhibited in the Circus. On the other hand, the Irish Wolfdog has been thought a valuable present to the greatest monarch, and is sought after and is sent abroad to all the quarters of the world; and this has been one cause why that noble creature has grown so scarce amongst us, as another is the neglect of the species since the extinction of wolves in Ireland; and even of what remain, the size seems to have dwindled from its ancient stateliness.”

Warr also gives as a frontispiece to his book, an allegorical representation of a passage from the Venerable Bede, in which two dogs are introduced, bearing a very strong resemblance to the Irish Wolfdog, or Scottish Deerdog, in those days doubtless the same animal. The Venerable Bede was born 672, died 735.

It may be as well here to quote the following interesting extract from Richardson; culled by him from the *Irish Penny Journal*:—“The Scoti who were in possession of the Island (Ireland) at the time of the introduction of Christianity, appear to have been to a great extent the successors of a people whose name and monuments indicate a close affinity with the Belgæ (a Teutonic tribe) of Southern Britain. A people also called Cruithore, by the Irish annalists, who are identifiable with the Piets of Northern Britain, continued to inhabit a portion of the Island distinct from the Scoti, until after the Christian Mission; and it is observable that the names of mountains and remarkable places in that district still strikingly resemble the topographical nomenclature of those parts of North Britain which have not been affected by the Scotio conquest. The monuments and relics which attest the presence of the people considerably

advanced in civilization at some period in Ireland, such as Cyclopean buildings, sepulchral mounds, containing stone chambers, mines, bronze instruments, and weapons of classic form and elegant workmanship, would appear to be referable to some of the predecessors of the Scoti, and indicate a close affinity between the earliest inhabitants of Ireland and that ancient people." Richardson then goes on to say we may infer then that, as Ireland was peopled by the Belgæ, the Belgic dog of antiquity was the source whence we derived our Irish Greyhound.

We are informed by two very eminent authorities, the Venerable Bede and the Scottish historian Major, that Scotland was peopled from Ireland. We know that by the early writers Scotland was styled *Scotia Minor*, and Ireland *Scotia Major*, and it is scarcely necessary to make any remark as to the native languages of the primitive inhabitants of the two countries. The colonisation therefore of Scotland from Ireland under the conduct of Renda being admitted, can we suppose that the Colonists would omit taking with them specimens of such a noble and gallant dog, and one that must prove so serviceable to their emigrant masters, and that, too, at a period when men depended upon the chase for their subsistence? True, this is but an inference, but is it not to be received as a fact when we find that powerful and noble dog, the Highland Deerhound, a *tall* rough Greyhound, to have been known in Scotland since its colonisation? Formerly it *was* called the *Wolfdog*, but with change of occupation came change of name. In Ireland wolves were certainly in existence longer than in Scotland, but when these animals ceased to exist in the former country, the *Wolfdogs* became gradually lost. Not so in Scotland, where abundant employment remained for them even after the days of Wolf-hunting were over. The *red-deer* still remained, and useful as had these superb dogs proved as *Wolfdogs*, they became perhaps even more valuable as *Deerhounds*."

Richardson then goes on to show us, from Ossian's poems,

that such dogs appertained to the chieftains regarding whose prowess, etc., he sings; but the writer does not apprehend that any real value can be placed on Ossian's accounts *prior* to the date at which they professed to be issued in a collective form by MacPherson, viz., about 1770, as in the judgment of many persons competent to form a just opinion those poems almost entirely owe their origin to the prolific brains of the suppositious translator. Ossian is supposed to have flourished in the third century.

In the ninth century the Welch laws contained clauses entailing heavy penalties on anyone found maiming or injuring the Irish Greyhound, or, as it was styled in the Code alluded to, "*Canis Graius Hibernicus*," and a value was set upon them equal to more than double that set on the ordinary Greyhound.

Camden, about 1568, says, "The Irish Wolfhound is similar in shape to a Greyhound, bigger than a Mastiff, and tractable as a Spaniel."

Holinshed's, or rather Stainhurst's, description of Ireland, about 1560, contains this short account of the noble Wolfdog: "Ireland is stored of cows, excellent horses, of hawkes, fish, and fowle. They are not without wolves, and Greyhounds to hunt them bigger of bone and limb than a colt."

Gough, in his edition of "Camden," published 1789, has this passage on the Wolfhound: "Bishop affirmed that wolves still infested the wild and solitary mountains. Under the article of Greyhounds, Mr. Camden (writing probably about 1530-60) seems to place the Wolfhounds, which are remarkably large, and peculiar to this country."

In November, 1562, the Irish chieftain Shane O'Neill, (possibly an ancestor of the Lords O'Neill, to be alluded to as owning Irish Wolfhounds later on) forwarded to Queen Elizabeth, through Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, a present of two horses, two hawks, and two Irish Wolfdogs; and in 1585, Sir John Perrott, who was Deputy of Ireland from January, 1584, to July, 1588, sent to Sir Francis

Walsingham, then Secretary of State in London, "a brace of good Wolfdogs, one black, one white." Later still, in 1608, we find that Irish Wolfhounds were sent from Ireland by Captain Desmond, of Duncannon, to Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury. When Sir Thomas Rowe was Ambassador at the Court of the great Mogul, in the year 1615, that Emperor desired him to send for some Irish Greyhounds as the most welcome present he could make him. The foregoing are from an article on the Irish Wolfhound, by Mr. Harting, that appeared in "Bailey's Magazine" for September, 1879.

Ware is one of the few old writers (1654) who has said anything on the Irish Wolfdog, and his words are scanty. "Although we have no wolves in England, yet it is certain we have had heretofore routs of them as they have at present in Ireland. In that country is bred a race of Greyhounds, which is fleet and strong, and bears a natural enmity to the wolf."

Evelyn, about 1660-70, says: "The Irish Wolfhound was a tall Greyhound, a stately creature indeed, and did beat a cruel Mastiff. The Bull-dogs did exceedingly well, but the Irish Wolfdog exceeded!" He was then describing the savage sports of the Bear-garden.

Ray, about 1697, describing the Irish Greyhound, says: "The greatest dog I have yet seen, surpassing in size even the Molossus (Mastiff?) as regards shape of body and general character, similar in all respects to the common Greyhound, their use is to catch wolves."

The writer would remark in passing that there is but little doubt that the ordinary Greyhound of that date was a rough-coated dog.

Buffon, about 1750-60, speaks of these dogs as follows:—"They are far larger than our largest Mâtins, and they are very rare in France. I have never seen but one, which seemed to me, when sitting quite upright, to be nearly five feet high, and to resemble in form the dog we call the Great

Dane, but it differed from it greatly in the largeness of its size. It was quite white, and of a gentle and peaceable disposition."

From Goldsmith, about 1770, the following is extracted :—
 "The last variety, and the most wonderful of all that I shall mention, is the Great Irish Wolfdog, that may be considered as the first of the canine species. This animal, which is very rare even in the only country in the world where it is found, is rather kept for show than use, there being neither wolves nor any other formidable beast of prey in Ireland to require so powerful an antagonist. The Wolf-dog is therefore bred up in the houses of the great, or such gentlemen as choose to keep him as a curiosity, being neither good for hunting the hare, the fox, nor the stag, and equally unserviceable as a house dog. Nevertheless he is extremely beautiful and majestic in appearance, being the greatest of the dog kind to be seen in the world. The largest of those I have seen—and I have seen about a dozen—was about four feet high, or as tall as a calf of a year old. He was made extremely like a Greyhound, but more robust, and inclining to the figure of the French Mâtin or the Great Dane. His eye was mild, his colour white, and his nature seemed heavy and phlegmatic; this I ascribed to his having being bred up to a size beyond his nature. The greatest pains have been taken with these to enlarge the breed, both by food and matching. This end was effectually obtained indeed, for the size was enormous, but, as it seemed to me, at the expense of the animal's fierceness, vigilance, and sagacity. However, I was informed otherwise; the gentleman who bred them assuring me that a Mastiff would be nothing when opposed to one of them, who generally seized their antagonist by the back; he added that they would worry the strongest Bull-dog in a few minutes to death. But this did not appear either in their figure or their inclinations; they seemed rather more timid than the ordinary race of dogs, and their skin much thinner, and consequently

less fitted for combat. Whether with these disadvantages they were capable, as I was told, of singly coping with bears, others may determine; however, they have but few opportunities in their own country of exerting their strength, as all wild carnivorous animals there are only of the vermin kind. Mons. Buffon seems to be of the opinion that these are the true Molossian dogs of the ancients; he gives us reason for his opinion, and I am apt to think it ill grounded. Nemesianus, in giving directions for the choice of a bitch, advises to have one of Spartan or Molossian breed, and among several other perfections he says that the ears should be dependant and fluctuate as she runs."

This is, however, by no means the case with the Irish Wolfdog, whose ears resemble those of the Greyhound, and are far from fluctuating with the animal's motions. But of whatever kind these dogs may be, whether known among the ancients or produced by a later mixture, they are now almost worn quite away, and are very rarely met with even in Ireland. If carried to other countries, they soon degenerate, and even at home, unless great care be taken, they quickly alter.

"They were once employed in clearing the island of wolves, which infested it in great plenty; but these being destroyed, the dogs also are wearing away, as if nature meant to blot out the species when they no longer had any services to perform."

Brooke, in his "Natural History" of 1772, states: "The Irish Wolfdog is, as 'Ray' affirms, the highest dog he had ever seen, he being much larger than a Mastiff dog, but more like a Greyhound in shape."

Smith, in his "History of Waterford" (1774), uses very similar words:—"The Irish Greyhound, though formerly abounding in this country, is likewise become nearly extinct. This dog is much taller than the Mastiff, but made more like a Greyhound."

Pennant (1776-81) informs us that the Irish Gre-hound—

a variety once very frequent in Ireland, and used in the chase of the wolf, now very scarce—is a dog of great size and strength.

From Bewick (1792) we gather that “the Irish Greyhound is the largest of the dog kind, and its appearance the most beautiful. It is only to be found in Ireland, where it was formerly of great use in clearing that country from wolves. It is now extremely rare, and kept rather for show than use, being equally unserviceable for hunting the stag, the fox, or the hare. These dogs are about three feet high, generally of a white or cinnamon colour, and made somewhat like a Greyhound, but more robust. Their aspect is mild; their disposition peaceable; their strength is so great that in combat the Mastiff or Bull-dog is far from being equal to them. They mostly seize their antagonists by the back and shake them to death, which their great strength generally enables them to do.” Mons. Buffon supposes the Great Danish dog to be only a variety of the Irish Greyhound. About this time (1794) certain dogs, in the possession of the then Lord Altamont, were put forward as being Irish Wolfdogs; but there appears to be no doubt whatever that these dogs were degenerate specimens of the Great Dane. Mr. Lambert, describing them to the Linnæan Society, stated that “they were the only ones in the kingdom; their hair was short and smooth, the colour brown and white and black and white.” An engraving of one of these dogs is given in the “*Encyclopædia Britannica*,” published in 1810, and it represents an under-bred Great Dane, of dull and mild appearance. Richardson at one time was in error regarding these dogs, for he accepted them as being true specimens of the Irish Wolfhound; but he was afterwards, from careful inquiry and research, quite disabused of any such idea, and concluded that the Irish Wolfhound was a rough Greyhound of gigantic stature and immense power.

To suppose that these dogs were Irish Wolfhounds was absurd to a degree, as that breed was known to be very

scarce, whereas the Great Dane was (and is) to be met with in great numbers on the Continent.

The present Marquis of Sligo informed the writer about twelve years ago that he had often made inquiries from persons who had seen his father's dogs, and as far as their descriptions would enable one to judge, they rather resembled some of the German Boarhounds, being rather like powerful shaggy Greyhounds, but a good deal larger. It is probable that the shagginess was a mistake, as Mr. Lambert distinctly states them to have been smooth.

It is noticeable that Snyders has represented rough dogs of Greyhound character in his pictures of boar-hunts, as well as the smooth, spotted Great Danes. At the same time, though many inquiries have been made, such a thing as a genuine Boarhound with a rough coat cannot be heard of.

E. Jesse tells us that the late Lord Derby purchased the portrait—in Mr. Lambert's possession—of one of Lord Altamont's dogs. Now, it is a well-ascertained fact that, in the face of this model (!), Lord Derby bred, as Irish Wolf-dogs, a very powerful and robust dog of Deerhound character (!!), showing that he set small value on the picture as representing the *true* breed of Irish Wolfdog.

In the "Encyclopædia Britannica" of 1797 we are shown a drawing of the Irish Gre-hound, which represents a very thick-set, tall Greyhound, with a rough coat and massive head; colour apparently brindle or black-and-white.

The "Sportsman's Cabinet"—a very valuable old book on dogs, of which there were but a limited number of copies published in 1803, and which is illustrated by very good engravings after drawings from life by Reinagle, R.A.—says:—"The dogs of Greece, Denmark, Tartary, and Ireland are the largest and strongest of their species. The Irish Greyhound is of very ancient race, and still to be found in some far remote parts of that kingdom, though they are said to be reduced even in their original climate. They are much

larger than the Mastiff; exceedingly ferocious when engaged." A remarkably spirited drawing is given of this dog, which, though faulty in some minor parts, gives us an admirable idea of what this grand dog was.

Notwithstanding the undoubted resemblance of this sketch to a gigantic rough Greyhound of great power, the letterpress is continued to the effect that the dog is identical with the Great Dane—a totally different dog in appearance—which is manifestly absurd; and on the letterpress we can accordingly put no great stress, though the *portrait* undoubtedly has a real value. E. Jesse coincides in this opinion, as when speaking of the "Sportsman's Cabinet" he says:—"It is a work more remarkable for the truth and fineness of its engravings than for the matter contained in it." It is a noticeable and remarkable fact that whilst this book professes to treat of every known variety of British dog, it does not make any mention whatever of the Scottish Deerhound or any breed of dog used for hunting or taking deer, save the Stag, Blood, and old Southern Hounds.

A few extracts from this book are given that bear on the subject under consideration, though not taken from the chapter descriptive of the Irish Wolfhound or Greyhound.

"The Danish dog, Irish Greyhound, and common Greyhound of this country, though they appeared different, are said by 'Buffon' to be but one and the same dog. The Danish dog, says he, is but a more corpulent Irish Greyhound; the common Greyhound is the Irish Greyhound rendered thinner and more delicate by culture; for these three dogs, though perfectly distinguishable at first sight, differ no more from each other than three human masculine natives of Holland, Italy, and France. And by the same reasoning he proceeds to justify the supposition that had the Irish Greyhound been a native of France, he would have produced the Danish dog in a colder climate and the common Greyhound in a warmer one. This conjecture, he observes, is absolutely verified by experience, for the Danish dogs are

brought to us from the North, and the Greyhounds from Constantinople and the Levant!"

"The Greyhound, large Danish dog, and Irish Greyhound have, according to Buffon, exclusive of their likeness of figures and length of muzzle, a similitude of disposition."

"The peculiar irritability of the olifactory sensation seems by natural observation to depend more upon the largeness than the length of the nose, for the Greyhound, Danish dog, and Irish Greyhound have evidently less power of scent than the Hound, Terrier, &c."

"The Bulldog and Irish Greyhound have their ears partly erect."

"The Great Danish dog, taken from thence to Ireland, the Ukraine, Tartary, Epirus, and Albania, has been changed into the Irish Greyhound, which is the largest of all dogs."

"The Greyhound and Irish Greyhound, Buffon goes on to say, have produced the mongrel Greyhound, also called the Greyhound with the wolf's hair"—in all probability the present Scotch Deerhound (?). At any rate, this would tend to prove that the Irish dog was rough as to coat.

There is mention of the Irish Wolfhound in Bingley's "British Quadrupeds" (1809). The illustration is simply a deformed Greyhound, and he endorses Pennant's and Goldsmith's views as to the appearance, &c., of the dog.

Captain Brown (1829) also, in his book on dogs, alludes to the Irish Wolfdog or Greyhound, giving an absurd drawing; his remarks are few and of little worth.

Dr. Scouler, reading a paper before the Dublin Geological Society in 1837, says:—"The Irish Wolfdog was a very distinct race from the Scotch Hound or Wolfdog, which resembled the Irish breed in size and courage, but differed from it by having a sharper muzzle and pendant ears."

Curious that "a sharper muzzle and pendant ears" should constitute it "a very distinct breed!"

McNeill, in his article on the Irish Wolfhound, written 1838, says:—"Whatever may have been the origin of the name, there is little doubt as to the antiquity of a species of dog in this country (Ireland), bearing a great resemblance in many points to the Greyhound of the present day, and passing under that name, though evidently a larger, nobler, and more courageous animal."

He goes on to argue that "from the rough and uncultivated state of the country, and the nature of the game that was then the object of the chase—viz., deer of all sorts, wolves, and foxes—that the dogs would be of a larger, fiercer, and more shaggy description than the Greyhounds of the present day."

From the "Museum of Animated Nature," published in 1842—45, the following account of the Irish Wolfdog is taken:—"In Scotland and Ireland there existed in very ancient times a noble breed of Greyhounds used for the chase of the wolf and deer, which appears to us to be the pure source of our present breed. It is quite as possible that the Mâtin is a modification of the ancient Greyhound of Europe—represented by the Irish Greyhound or Wolfdog—as that it is the source of that fine breed, as Buffon supposes. Few, we believe, of the old Irish Greyhound exist."

From the very interesting book entitled "Anecdotes of Dogs," by E. Jesse, published 1846, the following is gleaned:—"A certain degree of romance attaches to the Irish Wolfdog, but so contradictory are the accounts handed down that it is difficult to do justice to him."

"The dog flourished at the time of early kings of Ireland, and, with harp and shamrock, is regarded as one of the national emblems of the country."

"A gentleman of ancient family (whose name it is unnecessary to mention, from his having been engaged in the troubles which agitated Ireland about forty years ago) went into a coffee-room at Dublin during that period, accompanied by a noble Wolfdog, supposed to be one of the last of the

breed. There was only one other gentleman in the room, whom seeing, the dog, went up to him, and he began to notice him. His owner, in considerable alarm, begged him to desist, as the dog was fierce and never would let a stranger touch him. The gentleman resumed his seat, when the dog came to him and showed signs of the greatest pleasure at being noticed, and allowed himself to be fondled. His owner could not disguise his astonishment. 'You are the only person,' he said, 'whom that dog would ever allow to touch him without showing resentment. May I beg the favour of your name?'—mentioning his own at the same time. The stranger announced it: he was the last of his race—one of the most noble and ancient in Ireland, and descended from one of its kings. 'I do not wonder,' said the owner of the dog, 'at the homage the animal has paid you. He recognises in you the descendant of one of our most ancient races of gentlemen, to whom this breed of dog almost exclusively belonged, and the peculiar instinct he possesses has now been shown in a manner which cannot be mistaken by me, who am so well acquainted with the ferocity this dog has hitherto shown to all strangers.' "

"In a poem written by Miss Catherine Phillips, about 1660, the character of the Irish Wolfhound is well portrayed, and proves the estimation in which he was held.

" 'Behold this creature's form and state;
 Him nature surely did create
 That to the world might be exprest
 What mien there can be in a beast.
 More nobleness of form and mind
 Than in the lion we can find;
 Yea, this heroic beast doth seem
 In majesty to rival him.
 Yet he vouchsafes to men to show
 His service and submission too.
 And here we a distinction have:
That brute is fierce—the dog is brave;
 He hath himself so well subdued
 That hunger cannot make him rude;

And all his manners do confess
 That courage dwells with gentleness.
 War with the wolf he loves to wage,
 And never quits if he engage;
 But praise him much, and you may chance
 To put him out of countenance;
 And having done a deed so brave,
 He looks not sullen, yet looks grave.
 No fondling play-fellow is he;
 His master's guard he wills to be,
 Willing for him, his blood he spent,
 His look is never insolent.
 Few men to do such noble deeds have learned,
 Nor having done could look so unconcerned.'''

"The strength of these dogs must have been very great ; a nobleman informed me that when he was staying with the Knight of Kerry, two Irish Wolfdogs made their escape from the place where they were confined, and pulled down and killed a horse which was in an adjoining paddock."

"The Irish Wolfdogs were formerly placed as the supporters of the arms of the ancient monarchs of Ireland. They were collared "or," with the mottoe, 'Gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked.'''

The well-known Mrs. C. Hall, wrote to Jesse the following interesting account of an Irish Wolfdog :—"When I was a child (probably 1812-15), I had a very close friendship with a genuine old Wolfdog, 'Bruno' by name. He was the property of an old friend of my grandmother's, who claimed descent from the Irish kings. His name was O'Toole ; his manners were the most courtly you can imagine. His visits were my jubilees. There was the kind, dignified, old gentleman, who told me tales, and there was his tall gaunt dog, grey with age, and yet with me full of play. There were two Terriers rough, &c., &c. O'Toole and his dogs always occupied the same room, the Terriers on the same bed as their master. No entreaty, however, would induce Bruno to sleep on anything softer than stone. He would remove the hearth-rug and lie on the marble. His master used to instance the

dog's disdain of luxury of a mark as his noble nature. The O'Toole had three of these dogs. I can recall nothing more picturesque than that majestic old gentleman and his dog, both remnants of a bygone age. Bruno was rough—but not long-coated—very grave, observant, enduring every one, very fond of children, playing with them gently, but only crouching and fawning on his master; and that, O'Toole would say, 'is proof of my royal blood.'"

Jesse offers his thanks to Mrs. Hall and to Lady Morgan for their assistance on this matter; the latter introduces the late Hamilton Rowan and his Irish Wolfdog, Bran, into one of her novels.

Richardson tells us that the late Sir W. Betham, Ulster King-at-Arms, an authority of very high importance on any subject connected with Irish antiquities, in communicating with Mr. Haffield, who read a paper on the Irish Wolfhound before the Dublin Natural History Society, about 1841, states as follows:—"From the mention of the Wolfdogs in the old Irish stories and poems, and also from what I have heard from a very old person, long since dead, of his having seen them at The Neale, in the County of Mayo, the seat of Sir John Browne, ancestor to Lord Kilmaine, I have no doubt they were a gigantic Greyhound. My departed friend described them as being very gentle, and that Sir J. Browne allowed them to come into his dining-room, where they put their heads over the shoulders of those who sat at table; they were not smooth-skinned like our Greyhounds, but rough and curley-haired."

"The Irish poets call the Wolfdog 'cu,' and the common Greyhound 'gayer,' a marked distinction, the word 'cu' signifying a champion."

The two following anecdotes are given as showing the great courage and power of the Irish Greyhound as compared with wild and ferocious animals with which he was opposed in combat.

From the "Sportsman's Cabinet."—It begins by treating on the possibility of breeding between dog and wolf, and goes on to say—"That every chance might be afforded for the success of this experiment, so industriously made, a she-wolf, taken from its wild state of nature in the woods when only three months old, was shut up in a large court surrounded by a high wall, with an Irish Greyhound of the same age. To this court no other beast whatever could have access, and within it was proper shelter for their individual or joint retirement."

"They were equally strangers to their own species, and knew no person but the man by whom they were fed. In this state they were kept together for three years, that the result of the experiment might be more fully known and confirmed. During the first twelve months they perpetually played together, and had every appearance of being exceedingly fond of each other; the second year disputes constantly arose, but more particularly about their provisions, though supplied in great plenty: it was remarked that such always originated with the wolf. When meat and bones were given to them on a large wooden platter, the wolf, instead of seizing either, instantly drove off the dog, then laid hold of the edge of the plate so dexterously as to allow nothing to fall, and carried off the whole. She has been seen to run in this manner with the dish in her teeth five or six times round the court, and never set it down unless to take breath, devour the meat, or to attack the dog when he approached. The dog was at all times evidently stronger than the wolf, but as he was less ferocious a collar for his neck was found necessary for the preservation of his life. By the expiration of the second year these combats became more frequent, and the result of each more serious, in which state a collar was found equally necessary for the wolf, who in every successive dispute was worse used than before. During the whole of the two years not the least tendency to venery could be observed in either the one or the

other; at the end of the third year these sensations became perceptible in each, but produced no marks of affection in either. The state they were in, instead of rendering them more peaceful and accomodating to each other, only seemed to promote new cause of contest, and excite more frequent opportunities to renew their quarrels. Discontented howlings and roarings of disappointment were incessant, they never approached each other but to fight, and at the end of three weeks were both completely emaciated. In this eternal warfare and struggle for superiority they fought with such determined desperation that the wolf was killed in the contest. Upon the death of his companion the dog was set at liberty, but was obliged to be shot, owing to its ferocity."

The second story is taken from "Two Years in Canada," by Major Strickland, written in 1825:—"I loaded my gun with ball, and in company with Dennis and his father started off for the place where Master Bruin had been seen. I took Neptune with me, a remarkably fine Irish Greyhound, one of the most powerfully-built dogs of that breed I had ever seen, and well he proved his strength and courage this day. After proceeding nearly two miles, Neptune raised his head and looked around; in the next instant he was dashing along in full chase of Mr. Bruin, who was making the best of his way up the hill. We joined the chase with alacrity, but not in time to witness the set-to between these savage opponents; for while we were gaining the brow of the hill a desperate fight was going on only a few yards from us, Neptune sometimes having the best of it, sometimes Bruin. I found it impossible to fire for fear of killing the dog. We then tried to pull him off, so as to enable me to shoot the bear: this we found equally difficult, the dog had such fast hold of his throat; he was, indeed, perfectly furious. With the aid of the dog, &c., &c., the bear was slung to a pole alive, and the homeward march began. I had great difficulty in keeping the dog off; he would rush in every moment, in spite of all I could do, and seize poor Bruin by

the side and shake him most unmercifully. I had enough to do, with the help of a stout stick, to keep him and the bear in order; the latter was equally violent, and tried to claw the men carrying him. I wished to keep the beast alive, but was destined to be disappointed, for what with the savage attack of the dog, and the beating I was obliged to give him to keep him quiet, he died before we reached the clearing. He weighed 157 lbs. only."

Some dogs were owned by the late Hamilton Rowan, of Merrion Square, Dublin, which were *erroneously* asserted to be Irish Wolfhounds. Regarding these dogs the following communication was kindly made to the writer by Mr. Betham, a son of Sir W. Betham, before alluded to;—
 "My father was very intimate with the late Hamilton Rowan, who was the only man possessed of the breed (Irish Wolfhound), and who was so chary of it that he would never give away a dog pup without first castrating him. I have repeatedly seen the dogs with him when I was a boy, and heard him tell my father how he became possessed of them. He was in Paris about the time of the first French Revolution, and was given a dog and a bitch, and was told that they were *Danish*. He then went to Denmark, thinking he would see more of the breed. When he got there he was told they were not Danish, but Irish, and were brought over by some one from Ireland—I forget whom. The dogs were of a very peculiar colour—a kind of brindle blue and white, sometimes all brindled, and sometimes a great deal of white with large irregular brindle patches, and were much given to weak eyes. They stood about 2 feet 4 or 6 inches at the shoulder, were smooth haired, and were a most powerful dog. Hamilton Rowan was very proud of being the only possessor of the breed, and seldom went out without one or more accompanying him. I have not seen any one specimen of the breed since his death, when one came into the possession of a poor man in my neighbourhood. It was a pup then, and had all the

characteristics of the breed, was very large, and a fine specimen. I wrote to the Zoological Gardens in Dublin describing the dog, urging them to secure him; but they refused, and he was afterwards sold to a gentleman."

In a second letter he goes on to say :—"I can speak from personal knowledge, and from having often seen the dogs, that the true breed of Irish Wolfdogs are smooth-haired, not shaggy like the Scotch Deerhound. They were coarse-haired, like the Bloodhound. I am not acquainted with the German Boarhound (*i.e.*, Great Dane); very possibly they might have been somewhat similar to the Irish breed. Hamilton Rowan's dogs were very powerful, and at the same time active dogs, with rather a sharp nose and shrill bark. My father used to say that when he dined at Hamilton Rowan's the dogs used to be in the parlour, and were so tall they could put their heads over the guests' shoulders when sitting at the table, though the dogs were standing on the floor."

Beyond the shadow of a doubt these dogs were simply Great Danes, as H. Rowan had evidently been told in Paris; the description leaves no doubt on that head. Richardson tells us the fact was that Mr. Rowan owned some of the breed known as Great Danes, and he never by chance called them by a wrong name. He also owned a true Wolfdog, and knew him to be such, calling him "the last of his race." This dog was a large rough Greyhound of iron-grey colour. Mr. Rowan subsequently presented this dog to Lord Nugent. In corroboration of this fact the writer was informed by the late Sir John Power, who recollected H. Rowan and his dogs, and who would have reached man's estate at the time, and been well able to judge of them, being a thorough lover of the canine race, that Richardson's description of the true Wolfdog belonging to H. Rowan was right. Mr. Betham remembers the dogs only as a boy, and the distinction between the Danish dogs and the true old rough dog would hardly have struck him;

hence his misconception on the matter. Mr. Betham's account is only inserted and confuted to remove any impression that certain of Hamilton Rowan's dogs were aught but Great Danes, which has been erroneously otherwise concluded. Mr. Betham confesses, it will be seen, that he is not acquainted with the Great Dane or Boarhound, which are common and plentiful in all Continental countries; he cannot, consequently, be considered a fair judge on the subject.

Youatt has this regarding the Irish Wolfdog:—"This animal is nearly extinct, or only to be met with at the mansions of one or two persons, by whom he is kept more for show than use, the wild animals which he seemed powerful enough to conquer having long disappeared from the kingdom. The beauty of his appearance and antiquity of his race are his only claims, as he disdains the chase of stag, fox, or hare, though he is ever ready to protect the person and property of his master. His size is various, some having attained the height of four feet, and Dr. Goldsmith states he saw one as large as a yearling calf. He is shaped like the Greyhound, but stouter; and the only dog the writer from whom this account is taken ever saw approaching his graceful figure, combining beauty with strength, is the large Spanish Wolfdog. The same writer says that his grandfather had an Irish Wolfdog that saved his mother's life from a wolf. She was paying a visit, attended by this faithful follower. He rushed on his foe just when he was about to make his spring, and after a fierce struggle, laid him dead at his mistress's feet. His name was Bran." (*Sporting Magazine*, 1837.)

The assertion, made by several authors, that the Irish Wolfhound disdains the chase of stag, fox, and hare is utterly absurd, as it is a well known fact that all dogs of the Greyhound breed will readily chase and attack any animal which flees from them, and to pursue which they are encouraged.

Literature and the powers of depicting an animal in its correct form were in such a crude and immature stage amongst the nobility and gentry of the land at the periods when we have our first accounts of the Irish Wolfdog, that it is not in the least to be wondered at that the imperfect descriptions given of the breed by such persons as were equal to the task were allowed to go uncontradicted by the only people in whose hands the breed was likely to be. From the accounts we have, however, we can clearly and distinctly gather that the dog has always been of Greyhound shape, of gigantic stature, and great power: in fact, such a dog as a cross between the Great Dane and present Deerhound would produce, as to form and bulk, but of superior size.

Richardson, to further his views regarding the probable size of the ancient Irish Wolfdog, tells us that certain canine skulls were found by Surgeon Wylde at Dimshanglin which were concluded to be those of the Irish Wolfdog; of these the largest was 11 inches in the bone, and from that fact he proceeds to argue that the living dog must have stood about 40 inches. To begin, he takes for his guide a Deerhound dog standing 29 inches, whose head measures 10 inches. To the 11 inch Irish Wolfhound skull he adds 3 inches for muzzle, hair, skin, and other tissues, thereby making the head of the living dog 14 inches: thus getting the height of 40 inches from it, as compared to the 29 inches from the 10 inch head. Here, however, he would appear to be in error, as $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches at the most would be enough to allow for tissues, &c., making the head $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 inches only, and so reducing the height to 36 inches; moreover, the measurement of 10 inches for the head of a 29 inch Deerhound is manifestly insufficient, as the writer can testify from ample experience. A Deerhound of that height should have a head of at least 11 inches; so, calculating on the same principles, the skulls would have been from dogs standing about 34 inches. This skull is

stated to have been superior in size to the others, so if the argument was of any real worth, we can only gather from it that the dogs would have ranged from 31 to 34 inches in height, which is probable enough.

From the general tenour of the accounts we have of this dog's dimensions and appearance, it is certainly to be gathered that he was of considerably greater stature than any known race of dogs now existing, and apparently more than equal to the destruction of a wolf.

It is an incontestable fact that the domestic dog, when used for the pursuit of ferocious animals, should be larger and apparently more powerful than his quarry if he is expected to take and overcome him single-handed, as the fierce nature, roving habits, and food of the wild animal render him more than a match for his domesticated enemy, if of only equal size and stature. We know that the Russian Wolfhounds (certainly very soft-hearted dogs), though equal in stature to the wolf, will not attack him single-handed—and wisely too, for they would certainly be worsted in the combat. The Irish Wolfdog, being used for both the capture and despatch of the wolf, would necessarily have been of Greyhound conformation, besides being of enormous power. When caught, a heavy dog, such as a Mastiff, would be equal to the destruction of a wolf, but to obtain a dog with Greyhound speed and the strength of the Mastiff, it stands to reason that his stature should considerably exceed that of the Mastiff—one of our tallest as well as most powerful breeds. The usual height of the Mastiff is thirty inches; and, arguing as above, we may reasonably conclude that to obtain the requisite combination of speed and power, a height of at least thirty-three inches would have been reached, though we are told by several writers that he exceeded that height considerably, as will have been seen. The subject of the Irish Wolfhound was revived in the New York paper called the *Country* about March, 1878, and some interesting facts were related by a lady of the

name of Fremont regarding two dogs of this breed that had been imported to Fort Snelling—as a present to a Mr. Sibley—from England about 1838. They appear to have been of a brindle colour, and were much larger and heavier than the Deerhound, while equally quick in their motions; the coat described as short-haired. Others have been seen at intervals in the United States.

In a subsequent article on the same subject in the *New York Country* it is written:—"It is absurd to give as a reason for the indifference and apathy through which such a breed has been allowed to die out or its perpetuity to be endangered, that in the extermination of his particular foe—the wolf—his occupation was gone. A noble animal of this character should never have been permitted to waste away while curs of the lowest degree are petted and pampered and carefully provided for. In this country particularly the Irish Wolfdog could be made of special service. Here he would find in the chase and extermination of the wolf a wide field for his prowess and courage. On the western bounds of civilisation he would be invaluable for the purpose of hunting, his keen sight and scent rendering him superior to many breeds now in use, and as a companion and friend of man his fidelity and devotion have never been called in question. All the testimony which comes down to us agrees as to his sagacity, courage, strength, speed, and size, although in this last point we perceive there is a difference of opinion. Even allowing that he attained a height of from thirty-two to thirty-five inches, he is taller than any breed now living, although the early accounts published of him state he was from three to four feet high."

It has been suggested by a gentleman well known as a great fancier of dogs that the dog in use in Spain for taking wolves is identical with the old Irish Wolfdog; but the specimen brought over from Spain by him would at once undeceive us, as he is, to all appearance, a Great Dane of light stamp—possibly crossed with the Wolfdog of the Pyrenees.

For many months past a spirited controversy and correspondence on the Irish Wolfhound has been carried on in the *Live Stock Journal*—a well-known weekly publication—by the writer and others, without, it is confidently thought, in any way disturbing the conclusions on the breed which the writer has, from careful and prolonged consideration of the subject, arrived at, and which will be set forth presently.

The question as to whether it is desirable to continue and thoroughly resuscitate this superb breed now that his occupation is gone is hardly worth entertaining.

The Mastiff and Bulldog, though no longer used to bait bear and bull, abound in thousands and in a far more perfect form than they were a hundred years ago. The Bloodhound's original use has disappeared, yet who would wish to see these noble hounds allowed to die out?

Have not a dozen breeds—such as St. Bernard's, Colleys, &c.—been taken up, cherished, and improved to a marvellous degree? Why not, then, take such measures to recover the Irish Wolfdog in its original form? It can be done; the means are at hand if the *will* be only forthcoming. From the materials forthcoming in such specimens of the breed as are extant and the largest Deerhounds, with judicious crosses for size and power, there is little doubt that the breed can be restored to us in much of its original magnificence, and the noble canine giant—always held to be typical of Erin—would be worthily and faithfully represented.

It reflects but small credit on the gentlemen of Ireland that this breed—the national representative dog of their country—should have been allowed to dwindle down to a shadow of its former self. Mastiff breeders with much care and judgment have rescued England's national dog from a very degenerate state, and from most indifferent materials, and restored him in a form quite equal, if not superior, to what he was at his best. Why, then, should not the same be done for their most superb national dog by Irishmen?

Let them look to this, put their shoulders to the wheel, and success will surely crown their endeavours.

As the Deerhound of the present day is to the ordinary Greyhound, so is the giant Irish Wolfhound to the Deerhound. An Irish paper, waxing enthusiastic on the subject, says, not long ago, regarding the Irish Wolfdog:—"This animal has become celebrated as the heraldic protector of our country. Fair Erin sits pensively beside her harp, the round tower stands near, and guarding all three, reclines the Wolfhound. Scotland's lions have been famed in story; England 'stole' one of them, say some, and joining him in company with the unicorn, committed to his trust the honour of Albion; but the unicorn is a beast which even Dr. Haughton has never seen, while we must go back to the antediluvian era to find lions in Great Britain. But the Wolfdog is no mythic beast in Ireland; he was and we trust will again be included amongst the undoubted, exclusive, and most distinguished specimens of the Irish fauna."

In the British Museum there is a Grecian vase, some 450 B.C., on which Acæon is depicted surrounded by his dogs. Some of them would appear identical with what the Irish Wolfhound was, save, perhaps, in the matter of coat.

On some ancient frescoes at Easton Neston Hall, near Towcester, are depicted various hunting scenes. In one of these two vast dogs of Deerhound type are represented as seizing a boar, and these frescoes having been painted at a time when the Irish Wolfhound existed, may be looked upon as throwing considerable light on the real type of that breed. They are shown to be vast Deerhounds, with rough wiry coats, of a dark blue-grey colour; ears small and falling over.

It will have been noticed that several persons owning Irish Wolfhounds in former days were in the habit of styling them "the last of their race." It appears tolerably certain that the breed was gradually being merged into the present breed of Deerhounds, and each successive owner was

jealously claiming for his specimen the honour of being the last.

It will be well now to state the conclusions at which the writer has arrived as to the general appearance and character of the Irish Wolfhound, after a prolonged, searching, and careful study of the subject.

Form.—That of a very tall, heavy, Scotch Deerhound, much more massive, and very majestic-looking; active and fast, perhaps somewhat less so than the present breed of Deerhound; neck thick in comparison to his form, and very muscular; body and frame lengthy.

Head.—Long, but not narrow, coming to a comparative point towards the nose; nose rather large, and head gradually getting broader from the same, *evenly* up to the back of the skull—not sharp up to the eyes, and then suddenly broad and lumpy, as is often the case with dogs bred between Greyhound and Mastiff.

Coat.—There can be little doubt that from the very nature of the work the dog was called upon to do this would be of a rough, and probably somewhat shaggy nature, and to this end points the evidence gained from Arian—second century—who leaves no doubt in our mind that the great Greyhound of his day was rough in coat; also from the ancient Irish harp, now preserved in Trinity College, Dublin, which is ornamented with a figure of the Irish Wolfhound, rough-coated. Sir J. Browne's dogs were rough and shaggy; Mr. O'Toole's dog was rough; also Hamilton Rowan's. The former Earls of Caledon owned Irish Wolfdogs, which were rough; added to which, in former days all Greyhounds were, we have every reason to believe, rough; certainly the larger variety, as is now without exception the case. So it is with justice concluded that the coat was thoroughly rough; hard and long all over body, head, legs, and tail; hair on head long, and rather softer than that on body, standing out boldly over eyes; beard under jaws being also very marked and wiry.

Colour.—Black, grey, brindle, red, and fawn, though white dogs were esteemed in former times, as is several times shown us—indeed they were often preferred—but for beauty the dark colours should be cultivated.

Ears.—Small in proportion to size of head, and half erect as in the smooth Greyhound. If dark in colour it is to be preferred.

The *Tail* should be carried with an upward curve only, and not be curled, as is the case with many Greyhounds.

Size.—It will be seen that the Deerhound dog had considerable trouble in despatching the she-wolf, as narrated before, she being his inferior in size; so putting the matter on the grounds of simple necessity, we cannot but conclude that the dog should be less than from 2 to 3 inches taller than the wolf. Now, the usual height of the wolf would range about 30 inches, therefore, we get the height of from 32 to 33 inches in the dog. Also arguing from the skulls, the dog would have stood 32 to 34 inches. We may, therefore, safely deduce that the height of these dogs varied from 32 to 34 inches, and even 35 inches in the dogs, probably from 29 to 31 inches in the bitches. The other dimensions would naturally be about as follows for well-shaped and true-formed dogs. Girth of chest—Dogs, 38 to 44 inches; bitches, 32 to 34 inches. Weight in lbs.—Dogs, 115 to 140; bitches, 90 to 115. Girth of fore-arm—Dogs, 10 to 12 inches; bitches, $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 inches. Length of head—Dogs, $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 inches; bitches, 11 to 12 inches. Most modern authors and all practical lovers of the canine race whom the writer has consulted are agreed that the foregoing is the correct type of dog beyond question; and although some differ slightly as to the comparative bulk and power of the dog, the difference is small when dispassionately looked at.

To anyone who has well considered the subject such conclusions are inevitable, and this impression has been manifestly handed down to us for generations.

It is much to be deplored that this superb and valuable breed of dog has been allowed to fall into such a neglected and degenerate state, presumably owing to the fact of the wolf having become extinct, and consequent less care on the part of the owners in keeping the breed up to its proper form.

Although several writers have incorrectly confounded the Great Dane with the Irish Wolfhound, yet it is probable that the two breeds were not infrequently crossed; indeed, it is possible that in foreign countries the Irish Wolfhound may have degenerated into the Great Dane and other varieties, as it has into the Deerhound with us. That such was the case Buffon does more than suggest. Major Garnier, who gave the subject considerable attention at one time, rather holds to this opinion, and says "that whilst the Highland Deerhound is the most correct type, the German Boarhound has best retained the size, though at the expense of character."

These facts may possibly have influenced erroneously the opinions of some of the naturalists of the latter end of the last century, and will also account for the fact of Lord Altamont's dogs having been put forward as Irish Wolfhounds, which they certainly were not.

The last wolf was supposed to have been killed in Ireland about 1710. Sir Walter Scott was in the habit of calling his dog "Maida" a Wolfhound, and on the death of that dog he was presented by Glengarry and Cluny MacPherson with a brace of dogs of the same character, and said:—"There is no occupation for them, as there is only one wolf near, and that is confined in a menagerie." They were both animals of gigantic size. Scott was also offered a fine Irish Wolfdog by Miss Edgeworth, but declined it, having the others.

Richardson says:—"Though I have separated the Irish Wolfdog from the Highland Deerhound and the Scottish Greyhound, I have only done so partly in conformity with

general opinion, that I have yet to correct, and partly because these dogs, though originally identical, are now unquestionably distinct in many particulars."

The former Earls of Caledon at one time owned a breed of Irish Wolfhounds, regarding which the present peer has obligingly collected the following particulars:—"The dog was in appearance between a Mastiff and Deerhound; slighter and more active than the one, more massive and stronger than the other; as tall or taller than the tallest Deerhound; rough but not long-coated; fawn, grizzly, and dun in colour: some old men on the property have mentioned a mixture of white."

It is believed that the late Lord Caledon took two of these Wolfdogs with him to the backwoods of America.

The impression of a seal belonging to the Caledon family has on it the figure of a Wolfhound which shows the tail carried with a curve upwards, as depicted in Reinagle's portrait.

A breed was also owned by the Lords O'Neil, also by Lord Castletown; but no information regarding them has been obtained, although a friend of the writer was presented, many years ago, with a bitch of the former breed which answered very much to the description given above of Lord Caledon's dogs.

The late Sir John Power, of Kilfane, Thomastown (whose dogs will be alluded to presently), was a personal friend of the writer, and knew Richardson well, and has many times affirmed that Richardson always considered the Irish Wolfhound to have been a gigantic Deerhound of enormous power.

In a very interesting letter from an American gentleman, written to a gentleman residing in England, published in the *Live Stock Journal* some months ago, he says:—"I have felt an interest in the subject for over fifty years. My father often spoke of Lord Sligo's (Altamont's) breed of dogs, and doubted their being the genuine Irish Wolfdog.

He had every opportunity of observing them himself, being much at Westport House during his youth." After making other observations, he goes on to say:—"The bone of the fore-leg is, I should say, the point that best distinguishes dogs of this class from all of the Greyhound class, whom in actual build they so much resemble. The massiveness of that bone is out of proportion altogether, and it certainly was not made for speed so much as for power and endurance. I think all the Scotch dogs that I have seen are deficient in this respect, and I attribute it to crossing with lighter-built breeds in order to obtain swiftness for deer-hunting. The epithet 'hairy-footed' in old Irish poems leaves no doubt as to the comparatively rough coat of the Irish Wolfdog."

That it is beyond reason that any dog should have stood 36 inches is not the case, as Lord Mount Edgecombe has a picture of a dog taken life-size which measures 36 inches to the shoulder. The skeleton of this dog (apparently a Great Dane), which is also preserved, would corroborate this measurement. A picture was also painted for the Marquis of Hastings in 1803 by Clifford de Tomson, which represents a dog standing 36 inches at shoulder—also apparently a Great Dane, of a buff-and-white colour. The picture measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet, so it will be seen the dog must of necessity have been gigantic. We have also had some enormous dogs "in the life" of late years. The great American dog exhibited to Her Majesty some eighteen years ago was said to stand 36 inches. Sir Roger Palmer's Sam was 34. Both were Boarhounds. Several of our Mastiffs have stood 33 and even 34 inches. The great dog brought from America by Mr. Butler, of New York, about four or five years ago, stood about the same height. He was a descendant of the dog shown to the Queen—also owned by Mr. Butler. On the Continent it is not uncommon to find dogs standing 33 and 34 inches, and a Boarhound has been brought to the writer's notice, belonging to a gentleman residing at Cologne, that was reported to stand 37 inches by

a gentleman well accustomed to large dogs. The tallest dog the writer has actually measured stood $34\frac{1}{2}$ inches on the shoulderblade—a giant indeed. With all these examples before us, and some of them within our reach, there is no reason why the Irish Wolfhound should not be restored to its original height of from 33 to 35 inches.

It is worthy of remark that whilst some people scout the very idea that the Deerhound is the descendant of the Irish Wolfhound, McNeill is proud to claim such descent for his favourite breed.

The assertion that has been frequently made by writers on the breed that he stood 4 feet high no doubt applied to the top of his head, as a 33 or 34-inch dog would stand nearly 4 feet at that part.

A friend of the writer's—a Deerhound breeder of considerable experience, and one who had well considered the Irish Wolfhound question—writes:—"I hold that the Irish Wolfhound was identical with the Scotch Deerhound, only even more massive and bigger still. Ireland seems to have been peculiar for the growth of big animals as well as big men. Look at the fossil elk, for instance. I have a pair of antlers in my hall—I believe the longest in existence—11 feet in a straight line across from tip to tip."

Major Garnier at one time turned his attention to Irish Wolfhounds, and produced one or two dogs of great size, but he was unable to carry his projects to an end, being suddenly ordered to the Cape.

He was thoroughly convinced that the recovery of this breed in its pristine grandeur and magnificence was only a question of time if the would-be breeders were steadfast in their endeavours. He had laid down for himself certain rules in breeding, which are given:—

"1. Quality is very much more dependent on the dam than on the sire.

"2. Bone or size, on the contrary, is far more dependent on the sire.

"3. Colour is almost wholly dependent on the sire.

"4. The coat is almost wholly independent of the sire.

"5. Muscular development and general form is chiefly dependent on the dam.

"6. All these are modified by the fact that the purer bred will (other things being the same) influence the progeny more than the other.

"7. Every decided cross increases the size by one or two inches. This is merely an opinion formed from my own experience and observation; but I have never seen it carried out far enough to make me certain in my own mind about it.

"1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 I have not merely met with as the opinions of other people, but I have proved them incontestably myself. With regard to No. 1—'Quality'—I mean 'blood,' nervous development, vigour, energy and character."

He then goes on to give many valuable facts and hints on breeding Irish Wolfhounds and other dogs, too long to insert here. He concludes by saying:—"Anyhow, with Ulmer Boarhounds and Russian Wolfhounds (of course, in conjunction with the Deerhound and such of the Irish breed as are in existence) I believe it is quite possible to re-establish the old breed of Irish Greyhounds in all their former beauty and power. I should, however, be content with perfection of form and coat at 34 inches."

The writer is not prepared to coincide entirely with the above rules, but in the main he considers them correct, and such as can safely be adopted by breeders. It may be as well to remark that no two dogs of the first cross should be mated together, as the produce will be certain to be most degenerate. The Foxhound, the Pointer, the Shorthorn, and many breeds of sheep and pigs, have been brought to their present excellence by judicious crossing; why should not the same principle be applied to the perfecting of the Irish Wolfhound? Too much in-and-in-breeding should be especially avoided, as size is thereby eventually lost to an alarming degree, even though character be retained.

About the year 1863 the writer took the Irish Wolfhound question up, and instituted very searching inquiries after any specimens of the breed. For some years he did not meet with much success; but about twelve years ago three distinct strains were brought to his notice—viz., those of the late Sir J. Power, of Kilfane, the late Mr. Baker, of Ballytobin, and Mr. Mahoney, of Dromore—alas! now all believed to be lost, save some of the descendants of the first two strains, which are in the writer's and one or two other hands. Isolated specimens were also heard of, but none came under the writer's personal notice. It is believed that the Kilfane strain owed their origin partly to dogs bred by Richardson, who, not content with writing, actually set to work to discover the breed; from him Sir John Power had more than one specimen. Richardson obtained bitches from Mr. Carter, of Bray, (whose strain he mentions in his essay), and crossing these with a grand dog, of great height, produced some remarkably fine dogs. It is also believed that this strain was descended from Hamilton Rowan's dog "Bran" before mentioned.

Of this strain also were the Ballytobin dogs. Mr. Baker was an enthusiast regarding all old Irish institutions, and having built himself a castle, he did all he could to increase the size of the deer in his park, also to restore to their original form the Irish Woldogs. To this end he procured the best specimens, wherever to be had, regardless of cost, and at his death, some twelve years ago, he left a kennel of really fine dogs. The pick of these—bequeathed to a friend—a bitch, eventually came into the possession of the writer, and from her and from dogs of the writer's own breeding his present strain has sprung. The strain of Mr. Mahoney was originally procured from Sir John Power, and Mr. Mahoney thus speaks of them:—

"The pedigree I had, but I do not think I could now find it. I remember that the grandsire or the great-grandsire was one of the last old Irish dogs which I have an idea

belonged to the famous Hamilton Rowan; but of this I am not certain. As wolves disappeared in Ireland the dogs gradually fell away also. They were expensive to keep, and from the fifteenth century the diet of the people gradually changed from being almost exclusively animal to being purely vegetable. Thus there was no food to preserve the size and power of the dogs. The race of red deer also became extinct, except in the mountains of Kerry, where a few wandered; but under the care of Lord Kenmare and Mr. Herbert, and their successors, have developed into noble breeds without a cross. Thus there was no inducement to extenuate the old powerful dog into the swifter but sparer Deerhound, and the few specimens that remained preserved the original characteristics; while in Scotland the cause that preserved the race from extinction tended to change its qualities and older heroic proportions into the modern Deerhound."

"My idea was that by selection, avoiding in-breeding, and proper feeding the old characteristics might in some generations be somewhat recovered. The colours were dark brindle, bluish-grey, and fawn. The bitch was usually lower, and therefore looked stouter than the dog; indeed, she was so in proportion. Distemper was my great difficulty; but the wider cross got over this much better than the close breed, as might be expected. They were stouter than Deerhounds. They are affectionate dogs rather than intelligent; but I had one which was more remarkable for character than any dog I ever saw. He had a kind of moral force among other dogs that made them yield to him without fighting, though stronger in appearance. He cared for nobody but me, though others fed him more frequently, and his attachment was very extraordinary. His hair would bristle over his back towards the head when he was angry, and he would walk quietly up to his enemy's face, whether dog or man, with a determination that neither could face."

Two of these dogs were given to a lady who resided in the Isle of Wight. The writer has their photographs. The dog is stouter and wider in head than any Deerhound; but they have a strong look of that dog. Mr. Baker's breed would appear to have been larger dogs than either of the other strains. The bitch that came to the writer stood twenty-eight inches, and some of the dogs were said to stand thirty-one and thirty-two inches, very powerful animals, and thoroughly rough.

Lord Derby, grandfather of the present lord, bred Irish Wolfhounds of evidently much the same character as the strains just alluded to. One of them is thus described by a gentleman who often saw her, and to whom was given one of her puppies by a Deerhound dog:—"She was a dark brindle brown, the coat of long wiry hair, the build heavier and head more massive than that of the Deerhound, the hair on the head thicker and lying flatter than that of the Deerhound, ears rather larger than those of a Deerhound, though lying close to the head." This dog was bred about thirty years ago.

From her some very large dogs were bred by a Deerhound; some of the descendants were nearly black. A very fine female of this breed was owned by a Mr. Lascelles many years ago. A gentleman who often saw her said to the writer:—"You have quite converted me respecting the Irish Wolfhound being a rough-coated dog. The one I mentioned to you, which belonging to Mr. Lascelles, had—and which he always said was one of the last of the pure breed—certainly come quite up to your description. She was very large for a female, and of very noble appearance. She always lived in the drawing-room, and was always rather dangerous to strangers. Mr. Lascelles never would breed from her, as he could not meet with a male worthy of such a mate."

A dog was bred from the Ballytobin bitch above alluded to, before she came into the possession of the writer, by a

son of a dog Major Garnier bred, which was given to a clergyman residing near Knowsley. It was seen by the present Lord Derby, who, whilst stating it was very like the dogs formerly kept at Knowsley, also considered it was a finer and larger dog than any they had. The sire was a blue and tan in colour, and some of the puppies in the same litter as this dog were black and tan when born, turning out eventually blue-grey and tan. The dog in question was a reddish brindle. He is said to have stood 32 inches high.

The writer has not only studied the subject carefully, but has bred extensively, with more or less success, though death and disease have hitherto robbed him of the finest specimens. Dogs have been bred approaching his ideal closely in looks, though wanting the required height and power; also dogs of very great height, &c., which were somewhat wanting in character. Yet the very certain knowledge has been gained from these efforts that it is perfectly possible to breed the correct type of dog in the course of a few years—bar losses from death and disease. It has been the steadfast endeavour of the writer to get crosses from such dogs of acknowledged Irish Wolfhound blood as were to be found, in preference to simply crossing opposite breeds to effect the desired object.

Several very fine dogs have been bred by the writer, but he has lost all the finest. He succeeded in rearing a remarkable dog that stood 33 inches, and was covered with a thick coat of nearly black shaggy hair. This dog most unfortunately died at seventeen months of age, leaving behind him one litter of puppies, of which few remain.

The Irish Kennel Club was courageous enough to establish a class for the breed of Irish Wolfhounds at their show, April 1879, and it is strenuously to be hoped that this step in the right direction will be followed on the part of other shows.

At this show several dogs of much Wolfhound character were shown, the prizes going to a son of the 33-inch blackish dog above-mentioned, a cross-bred Dane and Deerhound

dog, and the dog whose portrait illustrates this article. Whether the prizes were rightly or wrongly awarded it is not proposed to consider. The first prize dog, Brian by name, a very fine rough grey dog, the last male of his litter, is, alas! dead.

Scot, the subject of the illustration, was from a Kilfane sire out of a fine red bitch. He is a powerful dog of strong red colour, deficient in coat, notably on head, and loses much in appearance thereby. Taken on the whole, however, he gives a very fair idea of the breed as to form and bulk; but instead of standing only $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches, as he does, he should be at least 33 inches, and be enlarged in proportion. The blood can be traced back for forty years. His dimensions are:—Height, $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches; girth of chest, $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length of head, 12 inches; girth of head, $18\frac{3}{4}$ inches; fore-arm, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches; weight, 110 lbs., which will serve to show what the general conformation of the dog is.

The writer has also a very grand bitch, sister to Brian, of most excellent form and great power. She is grey brindle in colour, very deep in chest and big in bone, standing $28\frac{1}{2}$ inches, girthing, 34 inches, and weighing 100 lbs. Her speed is marvellous, and activity extraordinary.

A very sensible letter was not very long ago published in the *Live Stock Journal* by a German gentleman, from which the following extracts will prove of interest:—"That the Irish Wolfhound is a pure 'Windhound' [Greyhound] I believe as little as that it is a pure Dane. As opposed to the wolf the largest 'Windhound' is not strong enough, and the Dane, on account of its short fine hair, is too vulnerable. I think the Irish Wolfhound is the Scotch Deerhound with some blood from our modern large German Dogge [Boarhound?] to give him the necessary strength."

"According to old paintings, rough coats (for the boar dogs) were preferred, because they were less liable to injury than the smooth."

The writer has just had painted, under his close superintendence and guidance, a portrait of an Irish Wolfhound of 35 inches, life-size, of a grey colour, and it presents to the vision a most striking and remarkable animal of a very majestic and beautiful appearance, far, far beyond any dog the writer has ever seen in grandeur of looks.

I shall conclude with an authentic statement of how the last wolves existing in the County of Tyrone were destroyed by means of the Irish Greyhound. This account is taken from the biography of a Tyrone family published in Belfast in 1829:—

“In the mountainous parts of the County Tyrone the inhabitants suffered much from the wolves, and gave from the public fund as much for the head of one of these animals as they would give for the capture of a notorious robber on the highway. There lived in those days an adventurer who, alone and unassisted, made it his occupation to destroy these ravagers. The time for attacking them was in the night, and midnight was the best time for doing so, as that was their wonted time for leaving their lair in search of food, when the country was at rest and all was still; then, issuing forth, they fell on their defenceless prey, and the carnage commenced. There was a species of dog for the purpose of hunting them, called the Wolfdog. This animal represented a rough, stout, half-bred Greyhound, but was much stronger.

“In the County Tyrone there was then a large space of ground enclosed by a high stone wall, having a gap at each of the two opposite extremities, and in this were secured the flocks of the surrounding farmers. Still, secure though this fold was deemed, it was entered by the wolves and its inmates slaughtered. The neighbouring proprietors having heard of the noted wolf-hunter above-mentioned, by name Rory Carragh, sent for him, and offered the usual reward, with some addition, if he would undertake to destroy the two remaining wolves that had committed such devastation. Carragh undertaking the task, took with him two Wolfdogs

and a little boy only twelve years old, the only person who would accompany him, and repaired at the approach of midnight to the fold in question. 'Now' said Carragh to the boy, 'as the two wolves usually enter the opposite extremities of the sheepfold at the same time, I must leave you and one of the dogs to guard this one while I go to the other. He steals with all the caution of a cat, nor will you hear him, but the dog will, and positively will give him the first fall; if, therefore, you are not active when he is down to rivet his neck to the ground with this spear he will rise up and kill both you and the dog; so good night.' 'I'll do what I can,' said the little boy as he took the spear from the wolf-hunter's hand.

"The boy immediately threw open the gate of the fold and took his seat in the inner part, close to the entrance, his faithful companion crouching at his side, and seemingly perfectly aware of the dangerous business he was engaged in. The night was very dark and cold, and the poor little boy, being benumbed by the chilly air, was beginning to fall into a kind of sleep, when at that instant the dog, with a roar, leaped across him and laid his mortal enemy upon the earth. The boy was roused into double activity by the voice of his companion, and drove the spear through the wolf's neck as he had been directed, at which time Carragh appeared bearing the head of the other."

In concluding this article, the writer would express his astonishment that so noble and pre-eminently attractive a breed of dog should have found so few supporters. Of all dogs the monarch and the most majestic—shall he be allowed to drop from our supine grasp?

Irishmen!—Englishmen!—all ye who love the canine race—let it not be so.

Since this article was written—In the *Live Stock Journal* of 20th August, 1880, "A Practical Farmer" writing on some

other subject, thus concludes his letter, "Now I am on the subject Canine, I will relate an incident that occurred to me in 1840, or within a year of that date. Staying with some friends in a Southern County, I was taken to see an old Irish Wolfhound belonging to a gentleman of means, he was then said to be the last of his breed in England: was old, perfectly white and much after the style of a Scotch Deerhound, but larger and considerably more powerfully built, and he had the deepest toned and most melancholy bark I ever heard." Let readers note how exactly this description coincides with that put forward by me!!

In the same number of the *Live Stock Journal* there is mention of a paper contributed to the "Zoologist" by Ernest Friedel, entitled "A German View of the Fauna of Ireland." Some extracts are given regarding the Irish Deerhound (*sic*), but they are of small interest and mostly contained in this article; allusion is made to Lord Altamont's dogs, and a foot note is appended by the Editor of the "Zoologist" to this effect—"It is now generally admitted that the dog described by Lambert here referred to was not an Irish Wolfhound at all but a great Dane"!!!

We are told in the *Sportman's Cabinet*, published 1803, p. 26, that Buffon asserts that from the common Greyhound and the Irish Greyhound the mongrel Greyhound was produced, also called the Greyhound with the wolf's hair, showing very plainly that the Irish dog was in his opinion a rough dog, as the ordinary Greyhound of that period was in all probability a smooth dog.

In the *World* newspaper, late in 1880, it was asserted that Mr. Parnell M.P. has in his house some banners, carried by the Regiment of Militia commanded by one of his immediate ancestors that was "out" in 1798, on which is depicted the Irish Wolfhound. The writer took the trouble to make enquiries from Mr. Parnell personally, and found that the fact was true, and that the dog depicted was similar to a Scotch Deerhound, but much larger and more massive (apparently),

and very rough. Mr. Ronayne Conron, of Lewisham, saw a brace of Irish Wolfhounds about 1847, fierce looking, piercing eyes, shaggy brows and rough dark grey coats, yet so kind a child could play with them. He opines they were of either the Kilfane or Ballytobin breed. Barclay tells us that in 1563, at a deer drive given by the Earl of Athol for the amusement of Queen Mary, 360 deer and 5 wolves were slain in one day.

In the month of June, 1882, was erected at Ennis, a statue to the memory of Allan, Larkin, and O'Brien, who were executed at Manchester, 1867. This beautiful statue was executed by Messrs. O'Niell, of Dublin. It represents Erin with one hand resting on the Irish Harp, whilst the other grasps the Celtic Cross, while crouching at her feet is an Irish Wolfdog. Unfortunately the figure of the dog—owing to the sculptors' requirements—has been very much reduced in size, and the extreme grandeur and nobility of the animal thereby lost. The dog, now in the Zoological Gardens at Dublin, was taken as a guide (unknown to the breeder) for the animal represented, thereby proving that the sculptor and the writer of this article (who bred the dog in question) are agreed as to the type of Ireland's Ancient Hound. It is stated that at one time the English Government offered an equal reward for the head of an Irish Catholic Priest and a Wolfdog.

1884.—The following description of a descendant (immediate) of Hamilton Rowan's Irish Bloodhounds—not of his Irish Wolfdog, for he owned one of the latter as well as some of the former—has been given to the writer by a gentleman to whom the dog, as a puppy, was given by H. Rowan:—

“‘Nero.’ Colour, grey, almost mouse colour; head, of decidedly Bloodhound type, long, rather narrow, peaked; deep flews, large hound ears, eyes small; coat similar to a Mastiff's or smooth St. Bernard; double dew claws on hind legs. To a side view rather a long low dog, than square

built; gentle temper on the whole, and affectionate, but *never* forgot an enemy, and ever afterwards began to bark when he came to the door—*before* he knocked! Delighted in water, and would fetch and carry anything.”

There seems *no doubt* whatever that the dogs were crossed Bloodhound and Gt. Dane, and have not the faintest resemblance to the Irish Wolfdog.

On the 30th November, 1883, a Doctor Mac’Cormack, of Belfast, wrote as follows to the author of this essay:—

“When I was a child we had one of those magnificent creatures (the Irish Wolfhound) and I have been told that Doctor Weir, of Dromore, County Down, had two, and possibly has them still (?) in all probability of Mr. Mahoney’s breed. Very early in life I remember going to Lough Lall, (?) County Armagh, near which was the seat of the Cope family. They had a Wolfdog, and the bay of the animal impressed me almost as much as the lion’s roar. Archibald Hamilton Rowan, an Irish Patriot and a most magnificent man, used to go about attended by a Wolfdog. He has, however, long gone to the majority and his dog along with him.”

“The old Irish could not have lived without the Wolfhound; he was their protector and friend.”

On the 31st August, 1884, an impression was sent to the writer of an old seal, by a gentleman residing in Clonmel. It was the property of an old gentleman to whom it had been given, when young, by another old gentleman, a friend, in whose family it had been for generations. It is believed no traditions attach to the seal, and the breed of dog depicted was not known to the owner of the seal, but there is little, in fact, no doubt in the mind of the writer that the animal shown is the old Irish Wolfhound! In every respect, including the rough coat, it corresponds with the writer’s firm conviction of what the dog was—save and except the tail which hangs too much and is too bushy. It is opined from the spelling and style of the motto—

"Gentle when strok'd," "Fierce when provoked"—that the seal was engraved about the commencement of the 18th century, at which period wolves were existing in "*England*" as well as in Ireland? as was certainly the case to a much later date.

In corroboration of the writer's assumption that the dog represented was an Irish Wolfhound, the reader is referred to page 16, where it will be seen that the motto corresponds exactly with that placed under the "arms" of the ancient monarchs of Ireland, which had Irish Wolfhounds as supporters!

In "Fores' " window (the great print-seller of Picadilly) was exhibited in June 1883 an oil painting by James Ward, R.A., of a Wolfhound, evidently done from the life. It represented a very powerful dog, red in colour, hard rough coat, ears cut off at the ends. It was probably painted at the early part of the present century. The form was that of a very *strong* deerhound, but considerably thicker.

This picture is signed but not dated—it was formerly the property of Sir E. Landseer, at the sale of whose drawings Messrs. Fores purchased it—the drawing probably would be about the beginning of this century, as Ward was born 1770.

About 1860, a fine dog of this breed was owned by a gentleman living in Wales. He has been described by the owner's son to the writer as follows:—About 31 inches high; very powerful, far beyond any Deerhound; head, much more massive; pale fawn colour; muzzle, somewhat black; strong rough coat, head, well covered; ears, somewhat larger and more pendulous than a Deerhound's; probable weight, about 120 lbs.; was supposed to have been of the strain of the Lords O'Neill, which however is open to doubt.

The *Modern Geographer*, published by Thomas Myers in 1882, has this passage in it:—"The Irish Greyhound is much celebrated for its size and vigour, and is the most majestic as well as the most beautiful of the canine species. It

however is very rare at the present day. A species of Wolf-dog has also been deemed peculiar to the Country. In size it exceeds the Mastiff, but its shape has more resemblance to that of the Greyhound."

Mr. Watson, of Ballydarton, Bagnalstown, in Ireland, a well-known Master of Hounds, has informed the writer that Hounds for the pursuit of the wolf were kept there in the time of his grandfather, and that the last wolf was killed at "Myshall," close to Ballydarton, about 1786 or 1787. The Hounds were described as coarse powerful animals, running by scent.

About the year 1848, an Irish Wolfdog was purchased from a gentleman named Carter, who lived at Laughinstown, near Bray, in Ireland, by Mr. W. Leigh Clare. He was stated to have stood over 32 inches; like a Deerhound, but stouter and more powerful; very up-standing, blue-grey brindle in colour. Afterwards a bitch was also procured, light fawn colour, stoutly built, but not so rough in hair as the dog. She died whilst pupping and the dog soon after came to grief. Mr. Clare saw many Wolfhounds in this gentleman's kennels; also he kept Irish Terriers, and was celebrated for both breeds. Mr. Clare states his dog was a *grand* specimen.

During the visit of a lady named O'Brien to America, in the Autumn of 1882, she had pointed out to her in the Museum at Minneapolis, Minnesota, a stuffed specimen labelled as an Irish Wolfhound! It was rough, pure white in colour and of good size.

The fact that the Irish Wolfhound was a rough dog (which some people seem to doubt), has been handed down from generation to generation in Ireland, and all breeders have invariably and firmly adhered to this characteristic.

Quite lately a Club has been formed for the purpose of recovering fully this grand race of dogs. There is every reason to hope that success will attend their efforts, if steadily and carefully persevered in. A great deal of interest

has been excited both in England and Ireland, of late, regarding the breed, and if good specimens are forthcoming within the next few years, no doubt it will again take its place as "King of Dogs." The writer of this essay is at present acting as Hon. Sec. of the Club and will be most pleased to render any assistance or information to intending breeders of Irish Wolfhounds.





